

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES  
REPORT NO.

Date: December 11, 2013  
CD # 11

Honorable Board of Public Work  
of the City of Los Angeles

Commissioners:

**7200 THROUGH 7500 BLOCK OF SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD – REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE REMOVAL PERMIT OF FIVE INDIAN LARUEL FIG (FICUS MICROCARPA) TREES AND FOUR BOTTLEBRUSH (CALLISTEMON CITRINUS) TREES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PUBLIC SIDEWALK AS PART OF THE WESTCHESTER STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. TREE REPLACEMENTS ARE REQUIRED.**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That your Board review and approve the tree removal permit of five Indian Laurel Fig trees and four Bottlebrush trees for the reconstruction of off-grade sidewalks as part of the Westchester Streetscape Improvement Project. Tree replacements are required.

**TRANSMITTALS:**

1. Copy of fax sheet sent to Council office.
2. Letter from John Ruhlen, President, Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association (WSIA).
3. Service Request 13044951-1.
4. Nine pages of photographs of the proposed tree removals.

**CONDITION:**

The applicant shall plant eighteen 24-inch box size Pink Trumpet (*Handroanthus impetiginosus*) and Chinese Flame (*Koelreuteria bipinnata*) trees to replace the removed trees.

**ALTERNATIVE METHODS AND OPTIONS EXPLORED:**

The trees size, species, and location negate the possibility of tree preservation or relocation.

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The WSIA proposes reconstruction of the offgrade sidewalk conditions along the west side of the 7200 through the 7500 block of South Sepulveda Boulevard between Howard Hughes Parkway and West 77<sup>th</sup> Street. The project purpose is to improve pedestrian access and safety on streets in the Westchester community.

A BSS arborist performed a site inspection and identified nine street trees at various locations impacting the sidewalks and their accessibility. There are five Indian Laurel Fig trees measuring approximately sixty inches diameter by thirty feet in height in fair condition and four Bottlebrush trees measuring ten inches diameter by fifteen feet in height in poor condition planted in four feet square tree wells. The Bottlebrush trees are beginning to decline, possess poor crown structure, and are all leaning to some degree. The roots and root crowns from the Indian Laurel Fig trees have significantly contributed to the defective condition of the public sidewalk and have severely outgrown their planting space.

Tree well enlargement greater than 4x6 is not recommended due to the minimal eight foot sidewalk. The root pruning required for sidewalk reconstruction would significantly and adversely affect the trees' health and structural integrity.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to City CEQA Guidelines exemption Class 1, Category 8 for "maintenance of existing landscaping with no expansion of use." Therefore to allow for reconstruction of the sidewalk and enhance the safety of the school route, it is recommended that your Board approve the request for a tree removal permit.

The trees were posted on August 5, 2013 to allow for public comment related to the proposed tree removals. Mark Grant, District Deputy, Eleventh Council District Office, was informed of the tree removal request on September 13, 2013 and will notify the Bureau of any tree removal objections they receive.

The applicant shall plant eighteen 24-inch box size Pink Trumpet (*Handroanthus impetiginosus*) and Chinese Flame (*Koelreuteria bipinnata*) trees to replace the removed trees.

(RL----- GG-----JC)

Respectfully submitted,

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NAZARIO SAUCEDA, DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES

Prepared by:  
Urban Forestry Division  
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